Overmier Family in Livingston County

Hi, below is the information on the Overmier family that I am researching.

William 1898-1953
Harry.....1900-1943
Theodore....1903-1961
Charles.....1905....1995
George....1894

Livingston County History Books

It is doubtful anything will be found, because these people were born after the early history books. But, I will check.

1878 history book…...…..nothing.

1888 history book……..nothing.

1900 history book……..nothing.

1909 Vol. 2 history book……..nothing.

Pantagraph Archives

WOW, 174 articles with Overmier in the article. I think that is a high number given how unusual of a surname that is.

Fairbury Blade Archives

Another WOW, 63 articles!!

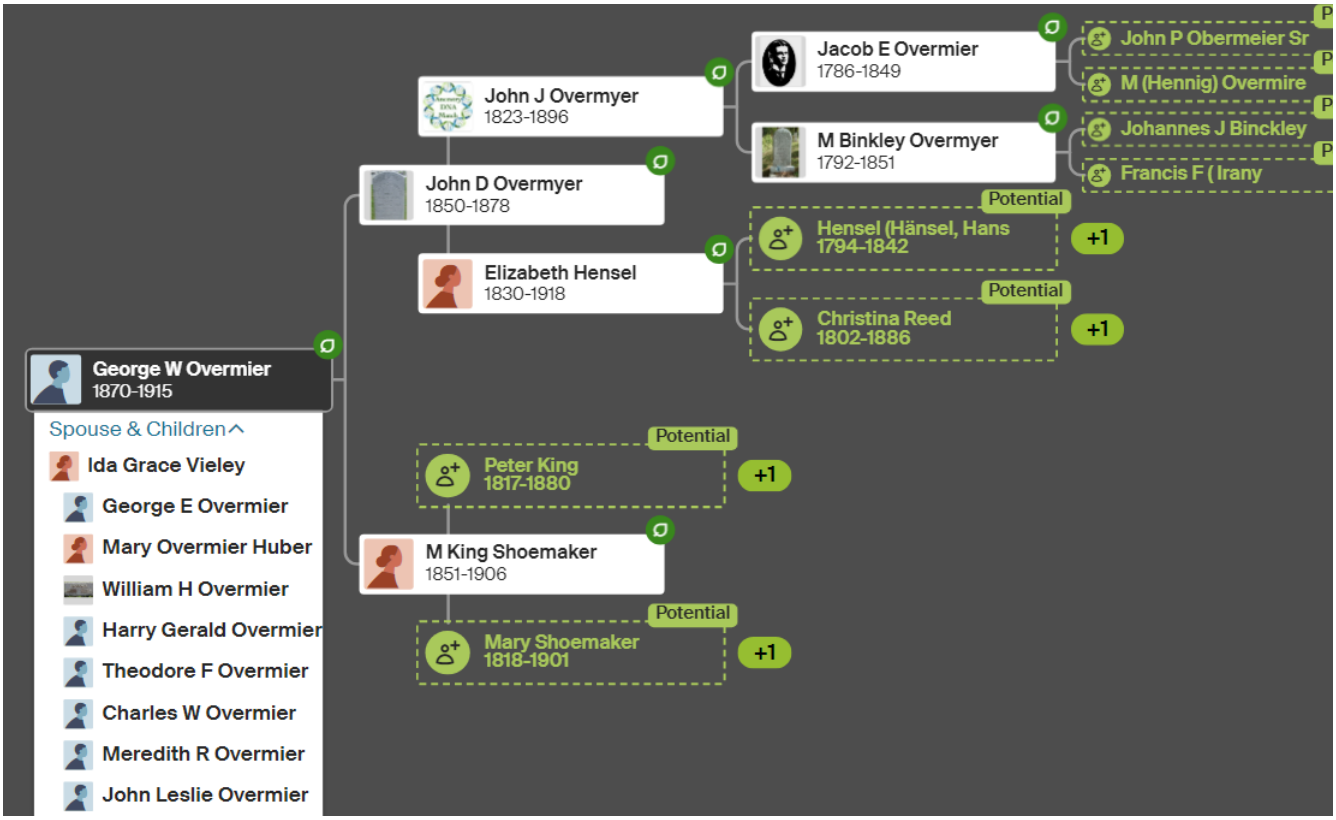
Sentinel and Pontiac Daily Leader

WOW, 321 articles starting in 1903

Ancestry.com

Before pulling the Pantagraph, Blade, and Leader related articles, I decided to create a family tree in Ancestry.com.

Turns out the Overmier family came from Pennsylvania to Ohio, then Illinois.



So the people of interest in this study were the sons of George W. Overmier and Ida Grace Vieley.

As I was poking around the family tree, I discovered the father and grandfather of George's wife, Ida Grace Vieley, has a bio in the 1909 volume 2 history book. George is mentioned as marrying Ida Vieley, but his name is mis-spelled as Overmeyer, not Overmier, that is why I did not find when I word searched the 1909 history book.

In this bio, Mr. Vieley was a member of the Underground Railroad and helped many slaves escape to Canada. Here is the bio:

VIELEY, John Lawrence.—That men, now living, fought wild beasts of the wilderness and fled from the savage Indians, where the roar of traffic and the heavy clang of the iron wheels of mills and factories, driven by the dynamos, were never dreamed of, is marvelous indeed, and a history of this wonderful change should be interesting to the present generation so far removed from those stirring days. Among the sturdy pioneers yet living in Livingston County, John Larence Vieley, of Section 7, Pleasant Ridge Township, is one who has lived in the county since 1853, when he was brought here by his parents. He was born at Waukegan Lake, Ill., a son of Cornelius and Adeline (Larence) Vieley. The father was a native of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., who married at Gainesville, N. Y. He was a farmer and stock-raiser who moved to Pennsylvania, but in 1823 came to Illinois and settled in what was then known as Littleport, now Waukegan. He remained there until 1853, when he located in Livingston County, when John L. Vieley was eleven years of age. The family settled on Section 7, Range 8, Pleasant Ridge Township, on land entered by Woodford McDowell, and sold by him to Cornelius Vieley for $5.00 per acre. In all he purchased 240 acres, settled on it and developed a fine farm. He erected the first brick house in the county, as well as substantial barns and other buildings, and his was pointed out as a model farm. A portion of this land is included in the present farm of William Clark. Cornelius lived long enough to see his choice of a home justified, his death not occurring until 1872. His widow survived until 1881, when she too passed away. An old time Whig, Cornelius Vieley afterwards became a Democrat, and still later a Republican, taking a deep interest in educational matters, and all public improvements, being ever ready to give material assistance. In deep sympathy with the abolitionist movement, he helped many a fugitive slave to escape to Canada. No one ever appealed to him in vain, and his charities were many, although some of them were never known by any save the parties benefited. His home was ever open, and the stranger as well as the friend made welcome. It was the gathering place for the young people of the neighborhood, and the father and mother joined in the innocent merry-making.

Eleven children were born to Cornelius Vieley and wife, although but two are now living: John L. and Mary, widow of Joseph Clark, who was one of the prominent pioneers of Livingston County. Mrs. Clark now resides in Kansas. Two of the remaining nine died in infancy; Maria died in Waukegan at the age of your years; Lucy married John Bishop, both of whom are now deceased, leaving a son, Lorenzo Bishop, a real estate dealer and loan agent of Waukegan; Minard died at the age of seventy on the old home in Pleasant Ridge, never having been married; James Henry died in 1894 at the old home; Julia Ann married John Reynolds; and Mary is Mrs. Clark, of Wichita, Kan.

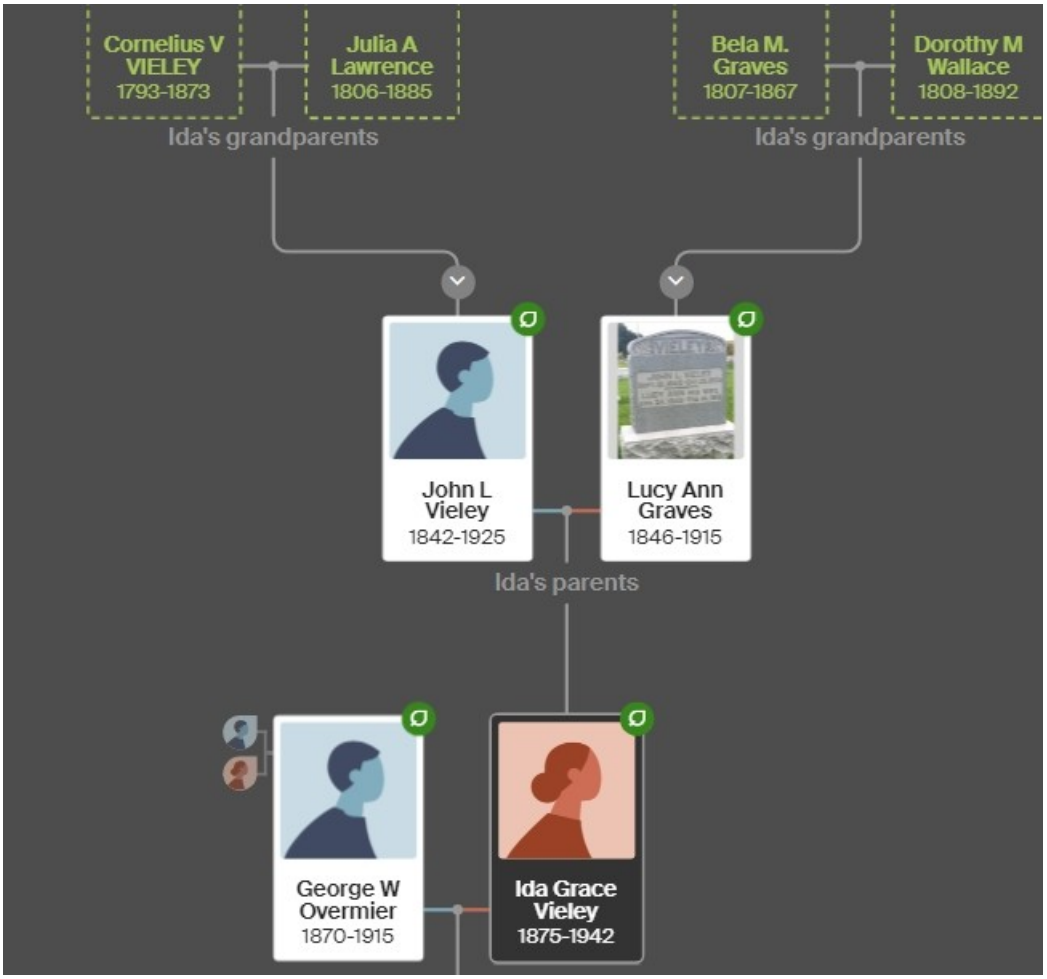
John L. Vieley came to Livingston County when the whole section was little better than a wilderness. Pontiac was but a railway station; Avoca was a little trading point, and the farmer had to haul his wheat forty miles to a gristmill, while some went to Kankakee. His school district was No. 2, when he went to school, though, the subscription school had not yet been replaced by the public school system. His first school experience was gained in a log school house 12x14 feet. It was so small that it was packed with pupils, and a Mr. Lacon Armstrong was the teacher. Mr. Vieley early became accustomed to the duties of farm work, and remained at home until twenty-five years old, when he was married, November 6, 1867, to Miss Lucy Gravis, a native of Ohio, who was brought by her parents to Livingston County, and she is a daughter of James B. and Dorothy (Madison) Gravis, and a sister of Sheriff Schuyler Madison of Cook County, who hanged the anarchists engaged in the Haymarket riot in Chicago. Mr. James B. Gravis settled at Waukegan, where he became one of the prominent men of that locality. Mr. and Mrs. Vieley had children as follows: Mary Jane, married Joseph Murray, a farmer living near Wing, Livingston County; Bertha, at home; Grace, married George Overmeyer of Pontiac; Charles, on the home farm, married Ida Wilson; Belle, at home; John, also on the old farm; Helen, at home, is a teacher in the county schools and very successful; Emeline, died at the age of eight years; James died at the age of four.

For over half a century Mr. Vieley has been an active participant in the development of the county, and has seen many changes take place. Franklin Pierce was President when he located here; there was but one house between that of the Vieleys and the Iroquois River; Fairbury had not been thought of, and he saw the first train of cars that pulled into Pontiac, and well remembers the great excitement that event occasioned, the whole county turning out to witness it. There were then no lumber yards, and the lumber for the first barn, put up by his father, was hauled from Attica, Ind., a distance of eighty miles. The telephone and the automobile have brought into close connection distant places; the binder and steam thresher have supplanted the primitive machinery which was used in those early days. While bending a weary back over the flail, Mr. Vieley never imagined the day would come when the wheat would be winnowed entirely by machinery. His highly developed farm of 160 acres is a part of the old homestead, and he devotes it to farming and stock-raising, and

makes a specialty of Norman horses and Berkshire hogs. While he has held offices of public trust, Mr. Vieley has never aspired to political honors. In national matters he usually votes the Republican ticket, but in local affairs supports the man he deems best fitted for the office regardless of party lines.

In closing this sketch, no better ending can be found to enforce the idea of the changes that have taken place during the past half a century, and give a better conception of matters as they were in the early 'fifties, than to give this instance of the shifting of values. When Mr. Vieley, Sr., was moving his family from Lemont, Cook County, Illinois, to Waukegan, Lake County, he had an ox-team with which he was making the transfer, and was offered forty acres of land at the point where Polk and State Street is now located in Chicago for his team. He laughed at the idea, feeling he would get but poor pay for his cattle. This property is now worth many millions of dollars.

Vieley Family Tree

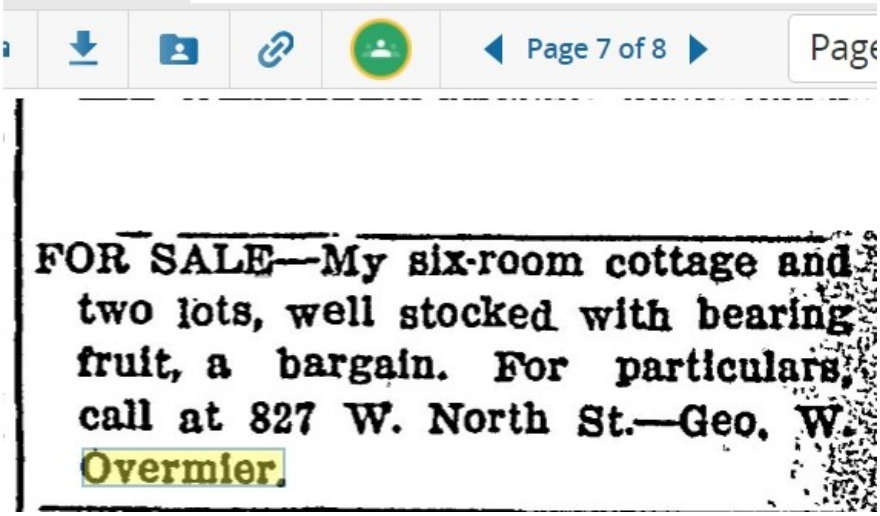


George Washington Overmier

1870 Jan 2, born in Sandusky County, Ohio.
Died March 31, 1915, Benzie County, MI.
Parents were John Daniel Overmyer (1850-1878) and Malinda R. King Shoem (1851-1906)

1893 George W. Overmier married Ida Grace Vieley (1875-1942) in Fairbury, July 2nd
He was 23 and she was 18.
Her father and grandfather were pioneer settlers in Avoca Township, north of Fairbury.
See their bios in 1909 history book vol 2.
They had 8 children according to Ancestry.com
July 2nd Fairbury Blade missing online, but we have paper copy to find the wedding notice. I will have to go to museum to find it, we do have the 1893 bound paper book.

Pontiac Daily Leader August 12, 1909
Article made available by *Our Generous Donors*



Pontiac Daily Leader February 27, 1912
Article made available by *Our Generous Donors*

PONTIAC POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

Organization Is Completed and Officers Are Elected.

Monday afternoon in the Young Men's Christian Association auditorium was perfected the organization of the Pontiac Poultry Association, which has for its purpose the furtherance of the breeding of fine poultry in the county and the holding of a poultry show in this city each fall.

The officers elected on Monday are as follows:

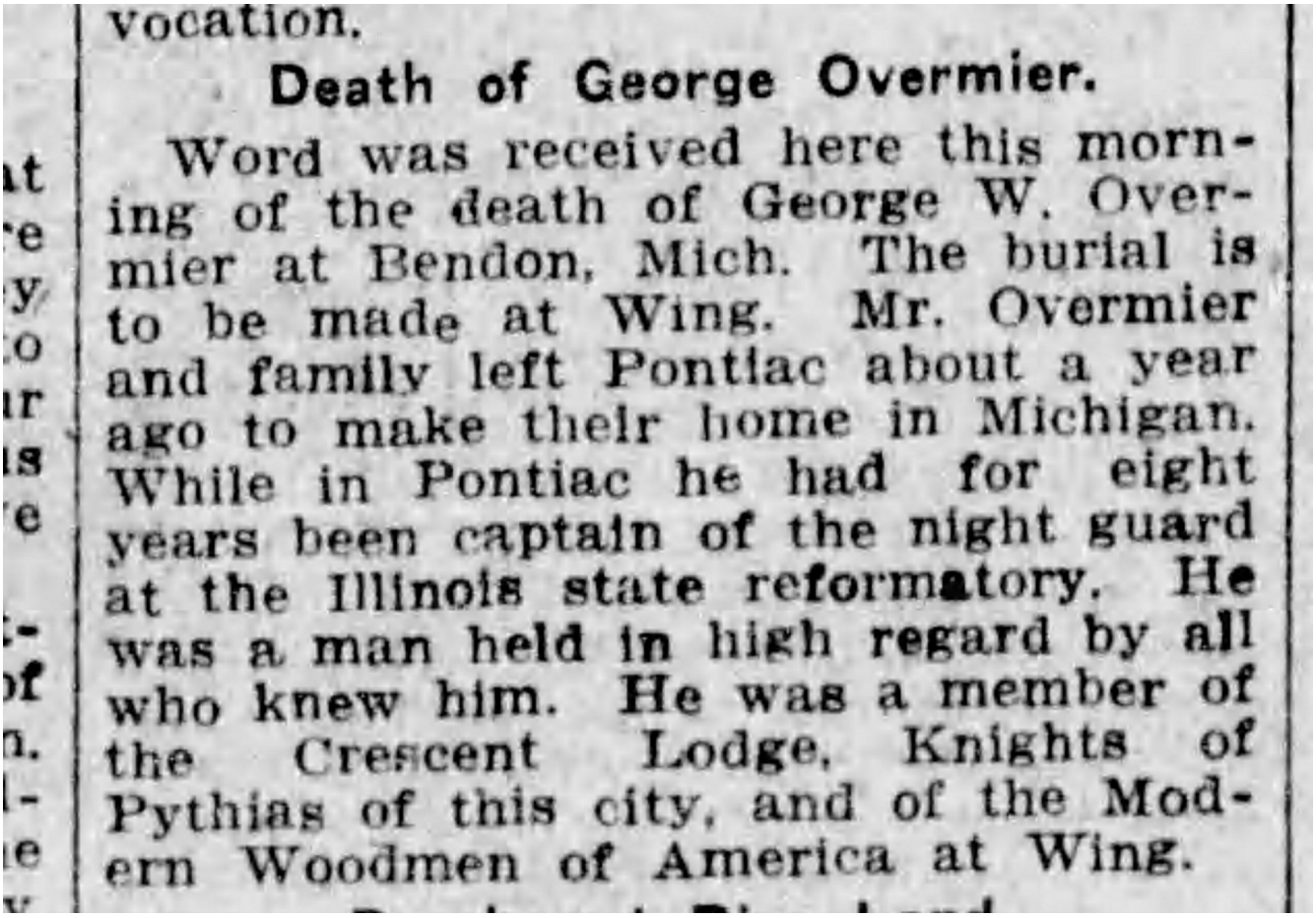
President, William A. Patterson.
Vice president, G. H. Bentley.
Secretary, O. A. Tuttle.
Treasurer, Harry Vogelsinger.

District presidents: Clyde C. Johnson, Forrest; W. W. Keup, Kempton; Phil Welcker, Dwight; E. E. Gourley, Cornell.

Executive committee, Harry Hierth, Fred Longnecker, E. E. Gourley, George Overmier and Will L. Shaw.

The organization starts out with a membership of twenty-five, and a large number in this city and vicinity, as well as in other parts of the county, have signified their intention of joining. The organization extends an invitation to every one in the county to become a member.

1915 obit for George Overmier in The_Weekly_Pantagraph_Fri__Apr_2__1915_:



vocation.

Death of George Overmier.

Word was received here this morning of the death of George W. Overmier at Bendon, Mich. The burial is to be made at Wing. Mr. Overmier and family left Pontiac about a year ago to make their home in Michigan. While in Pontiac he had for eight years been captain of the night guard at the Illinois state reformatory. He was a man held in high regard by all who knew him. He was a member of the Crescent Lodge, Knights of Pythias of this city, and of the Modern Woodmen of America at Wing.

George Elgar Overmier

1894 1st child born, died at 6 months of age. Born in Wing, Illinois

> **George Elgar Overmier**
> **B:** 22 Apr 1894 Wing, Livingston County, Illinois, USA
>
> **D:** 6 Oct 1894 Wing, Livingston County, Illinois, USA

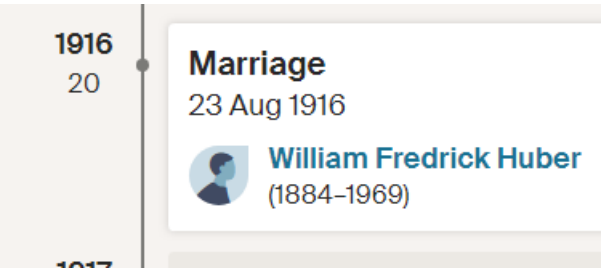
1896 2nd child born in Pontiac.

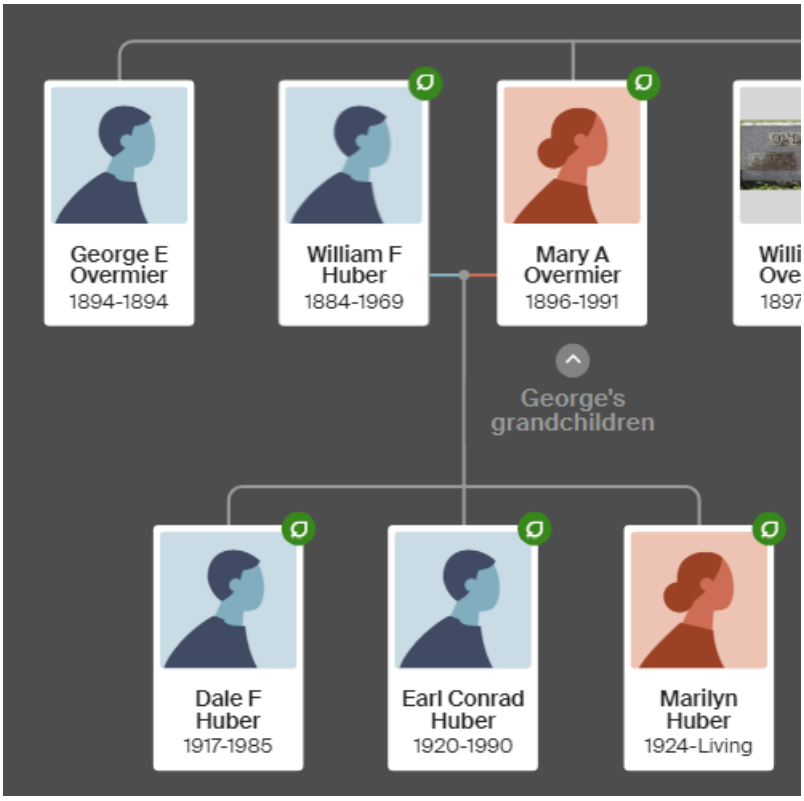
Mary Albertha Overmier Huber

B: 20 Apr 1896 Pontiac, Livingston, Illinois, USA

D: 21 Jul 1991 Springfield, Sangamon, Illinois, USA

On aug 23, 1916, she married William Fredrick Huber (1884-1969).
She was 20 and he was 32 when they married .
They had 3 children.





1897 3rd child born.

William Howard Overmier

B: 18 Jul 1897 Wing, Illinois

D: 10 February 1953 Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois, United States of America

July 14, 1927, he married Anna S. Bakalar (1896-1968). She was born in Streator. She died in April of 1968 in LaSalle County.
He was 29 and she was 31 when they married in Livingston County.
They had no children.

In the 1900 Census, he was 3 years old and living in Pleasant Ridge Township.

Name	**Wm H Overmier**
Age	2
Birth Date	Jul 1897
Birthplace	Illinois, USA
Home in 1900	Pleasant Ridge, Livingston, Illinois
Sheet Number	8
Number of Dwelling in Order of Visitation	141
Family Number	142
Race	White
Gender	Male
Relation to Head of House	Son
Marital Status	Single
Father's Name	Geo W Overmier
Father's Birthplace	Ohio, USA
Mother's Name	Grace I Overmier
Mother's Birthplace	Illinois, USA
Neighbors	View others on page

Household members

Name	Age
Geo W Overmier	31
Grace I Overmier	25
Geo E Overmier	6
Mary B Overmier	4
Wm H Overmier	2

In the 1910 Census, he was 12 years old and living in Pontiac.

Name	**Willir Avermier**
Age in 1910	12
Birth Date	1898
Birthplace	Illinois
Home in 1910	Pontiac Ward 2, Livingston, Il
Sheet Number	8b
Street	North
Race	White
Gender	Male
Relation to Head of House	Son
Marital Status	Single
Father's Name	George Avermier
Father's Birthplace	Ohio
Mother's Name	Grace Avermier
Mother's Birthplace	Illinois
Native Tongue	English
Attended School	Y
Able to read	Y
Able to Write	Y
Enumeration District Number	0038
Enumerated Year	1910
Neighbors	View others on page

Household members

Name	Age
George Avermier	40
Grace Avermier	35
Bertha Avermier	14
Willir Avermier	12
Harry Avermier	8
Fred Overmier	7
Charles Overmier	4

In the 1920 Census, he was 22, living at home in Pontiac, and working as a shoe cutter at the shoe factory. This was likely the Pontiac Shoe Factory that was on the Vermilion River just east of the old hospital, or north of Chautuauqua Park in Pontiac.

Name	**William Overmier**
Age	22
Birth Year	abt 1898
Birthplace	Illinois
Home in 1920	Pontiac, Livingston, Illinois
Street	W Sherman Ave
Residence Date	1920
Race	White
Gender	Male
Relation to Head of House	Son
Marital Status	Single
Father's Name	Grace Overmier
Father's Birthplace	Ohio
Mother's Birthplace	Illinois
Able to Speak English	Yes
Occupation	Cutter
Industry	Shoe Factory
Employment Field	Wage or Salary
Able to read	Yes
Able to Write	Yes
Neighbors	View others on page

Household members

Name	Age
Grace Overmier	44
William Overmier	22
Harry Overmier	18
Charles Overmier	14
Ray Overmier	7

Pontiac Daily Leader February 16, 1922
Article made available by *Our Generous Donors*
Back to Results | Pre
Page 5 of 6
Page 5

Electric Motors and Generator Repairing

Also

Rewinding

Wm. Overmier

Prices Right **Auto. 2676**

In the 1930 Census, he was married and working as an insurance salesman.

Name	**William Overmier**
Birth Year	abt 1897
Gender	Male
Race	White
Age in 1930	33
Birthplace	Illinois
Marital Status	Married
Relation to Head of House	Head
Home in 1930	Pontiac, Livingston, Illinois
Map of Home	Pontiac,Livingston,Illinois
Street Address	W. Reynold
Ward of City	Third
House Number	808
Dwelling Number	5
Family Number	5
Home Owned or Rented	Owned
Home Value	4, 000
Radio Set	Yes
Lives on Farm	No
Age at First Marriage	31
Attended School	No
Able to Read and Write	Yes
Father's Birthplace	Ohio
Mother's Birthplace	Illinois
Able to Speak English	Yes
Occupation	Salesman
Industry	Insurnace office
Class of Worker	Wage or salary worker
Employment	Yes
Neighbors	View others on page

Household members

Name	Age
William Overmier	33
Anna Overmier	33

In the 1940 Census, he was 43 and still living in Pontiac. He was working as a salesman.

Name	**William H Overmier**
Age	43
Estimated Birth Year	abt 1897
Gender	Male
Race	White
Birthplace	Illinois
Marital Status	Married
Relation to Head of House	Head
Home in 1940	Pontiac, Livingston, Illinois
	Pontiac,Livingston,Illinois
Street	Reynolds Street
House Number	804
Farm	No
Inferred Residence in 1935	Pontiac, Livingston, Illinois
Residence in 1935	Pontiac
Sheet Number	13A
Number of Household in Order of Visitation	340
Occupation	Salesman
House Owned or Rented	Owned
	3500
Attended School or College	No
Highest Grade Completed	High School, 2nd year
Hours Worked Week Prior to Census	50
Class of Worker	Wage or salary worker in private work
Weeks Worked in 1939	52
Income	2200
Income Other Sources	No
Neighbors	View others on page

Household members

Name	Age
William H Overmier	43
Anne S Overmier	43

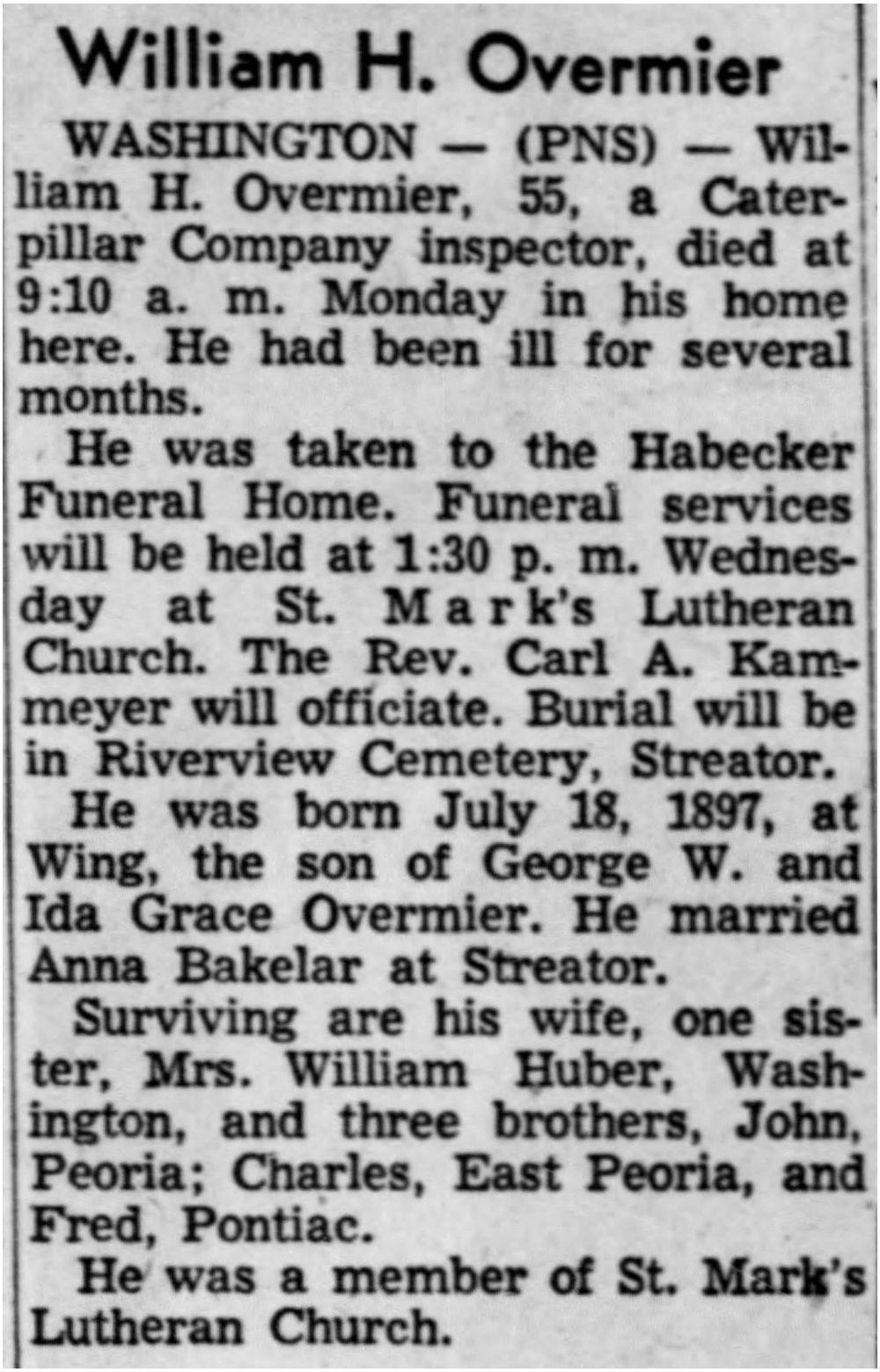
In the 1950 Census, he had moved to Washingon, IL and was working as an inspector at the Caterpillar plant in East Peoria.

Name	**William H Overmier**
Age	52
Birth Date	abt 1898
Gender	Male
Race	White
Birth Place	Illinois
Marital Status	Married
Relation to Head of House	Head
Residence Date	1950
Home in 1950	Washington, Tazewell, Illinois,
Street Name	North
Dwelling Number	38
Farm	No
Acres	No
Questionnaire Number	o
Occupation	Line Inspector
Industry	Tractor Factory
Occupation Category	Working
Hours Worked	48
Worker Class	Private

Household members

Name	Age
William H Overmier	52
Anna S Overmier	52

In 1953, he died at the age of 55. He was still working at Caterpillar. His obit from the Feb. 17th, 1953, Pantagraph.



William H. Overmier

WASHINGTON — (PNS) — William H. Overmier, 55, a Caterpillar Company inspector, died at 9:10 a. m. Monday in his home here. He had been ill for several months.

He was taken to the Habecker Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p. m. Wednesday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The Rev. Carl A. Kammeyer will officiate. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery, Streator.

He was born July 18, 1897, at Wing, the son of George W. and Ida Grace Overmier. He married Anna Bakelar at Streator.

Surviving are his wife, one sister, Mrs. William Huber, Washington, and three brothers, John, Peoria; Charles, East Peoria, and Fred, Pontiac.

He was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

If he finished High School at Pontiac, we might have a copy of his yearbook with his photo. He would have been Class of 1915 if he did finish high school. We have some Pontiac yearbooks, called “The Pontio”, but don’t know if we have any from that era. I would have to go check in the basement storage at Pontiac.

Obit for wife of William Overmier in April 6, 1968, Streator newspaper.

MRS. OVERMIER SERVICES HELD

Services for Mrs. Anna S. Overmier, who passed away Tuesday afternoon at her home, 208 S. Park St., were held Friday at 2 p.m. from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church with Reverand Martin Cizmar officiating. Edward Kerestes presided at the organ.

Pallbearers were Charles Overmier, John Overmier, Stephen Bakalyar, Rick Custard, Joseph Parkawich and George Matias. Burial was in Riverview cemetery.

Relatives and friends attended from Denver, Colo., Hammond, Md., Fort Wayne, Ind., East Chicago, Ind., Chicago, Muscatine, Iowa, Springfield, Peoria, and Pontiac.

That finishes the William Overmier Branch of the family Tree. There are no family photos on Ancestry.com

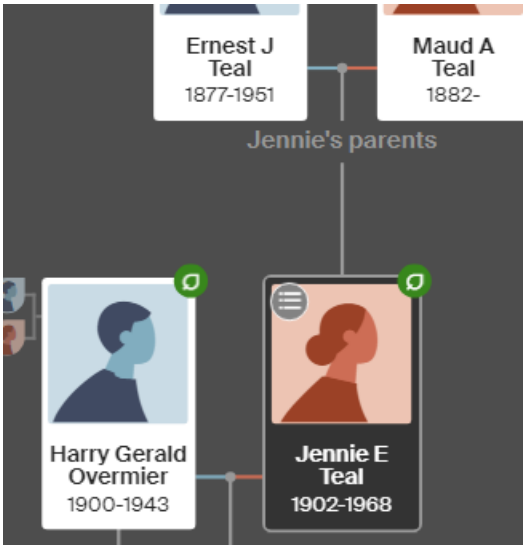
Birth of 4th Child, Harry Gerald Overmier, in 1900 in Pontiac

1900 June 27, Harry born in Pontiac.
He died Jan 18, 1943, in Pontiac

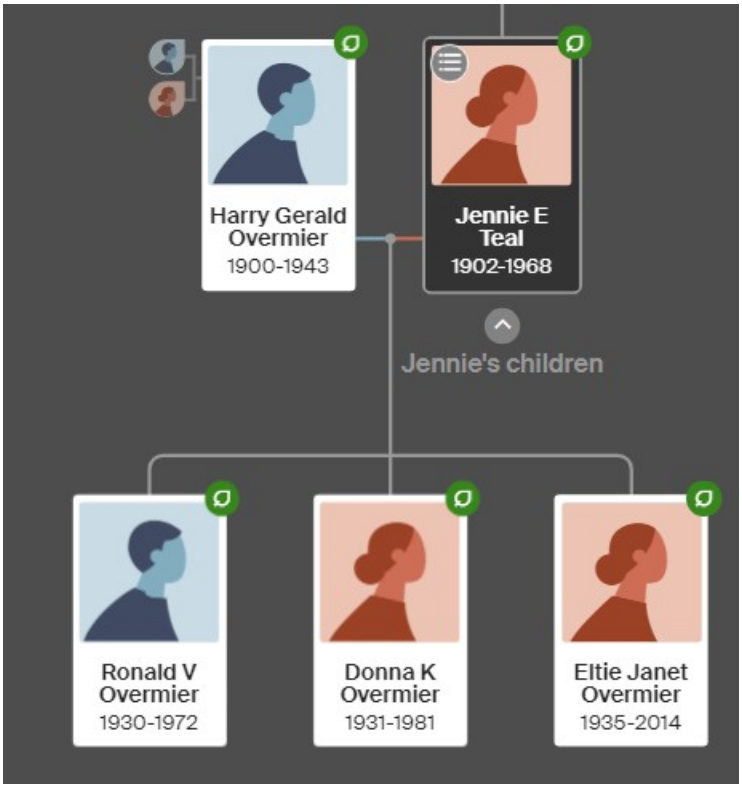
> **Harry Gerald Overmier**
> **B:** 27 Jun 1900 Pontiac, Livingston, Illinois, USA
>
> **D:** 18 Jan 1943 Pontiac, Livingston, Illinois, USA

Darn, looks like he was married Twice, these cases are always more difficult to figure out !!

Mar 2, 1924, he married Jennie Elizabeth Teal (1902-1968).
Her parents were:



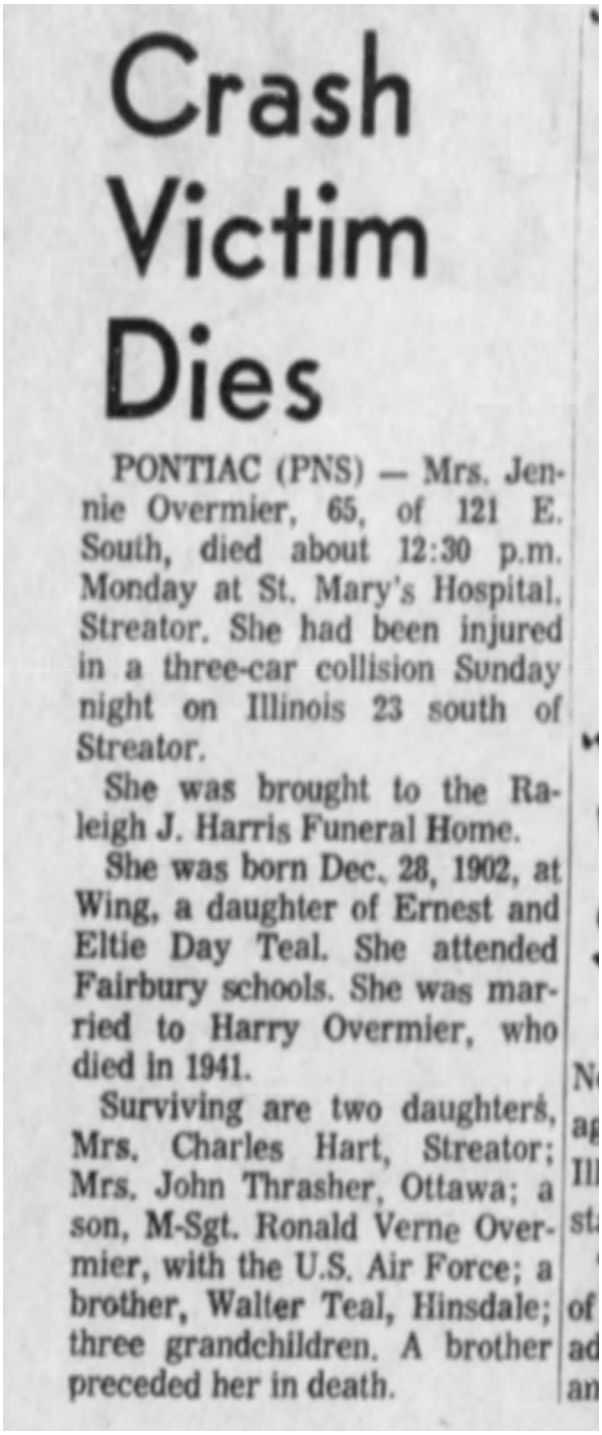
He was 23 and she was 21 when they married.
Their children:



Jennie Teal married again in 1938 when she was 35 years of age.

Boy, this was a tricky marriage !
John L. Vieley was her husband’s mother’s brother.
I don’t think Jennie and John L. Viely had any children.

She died in 1968 from a car crash per July 9, 1968, Pantagraph article:



Crash Victim Dies

PONTIAC (PNS) — Mrs. Jennie Overmier, 65, of 121 E. South, died about 12:30 p.m. Monday at St. Mary's Hospital, Streator. She had been injured in a three-car collision Sunday night on Illinois 23 south of Streator.

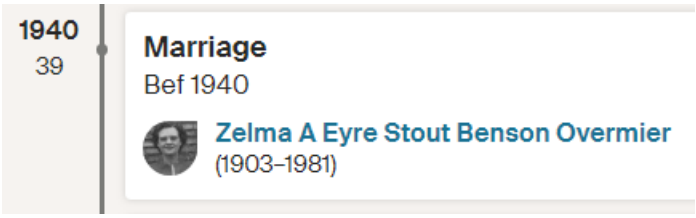
She was brought to the Raleigh J. Harris Funeral Home.

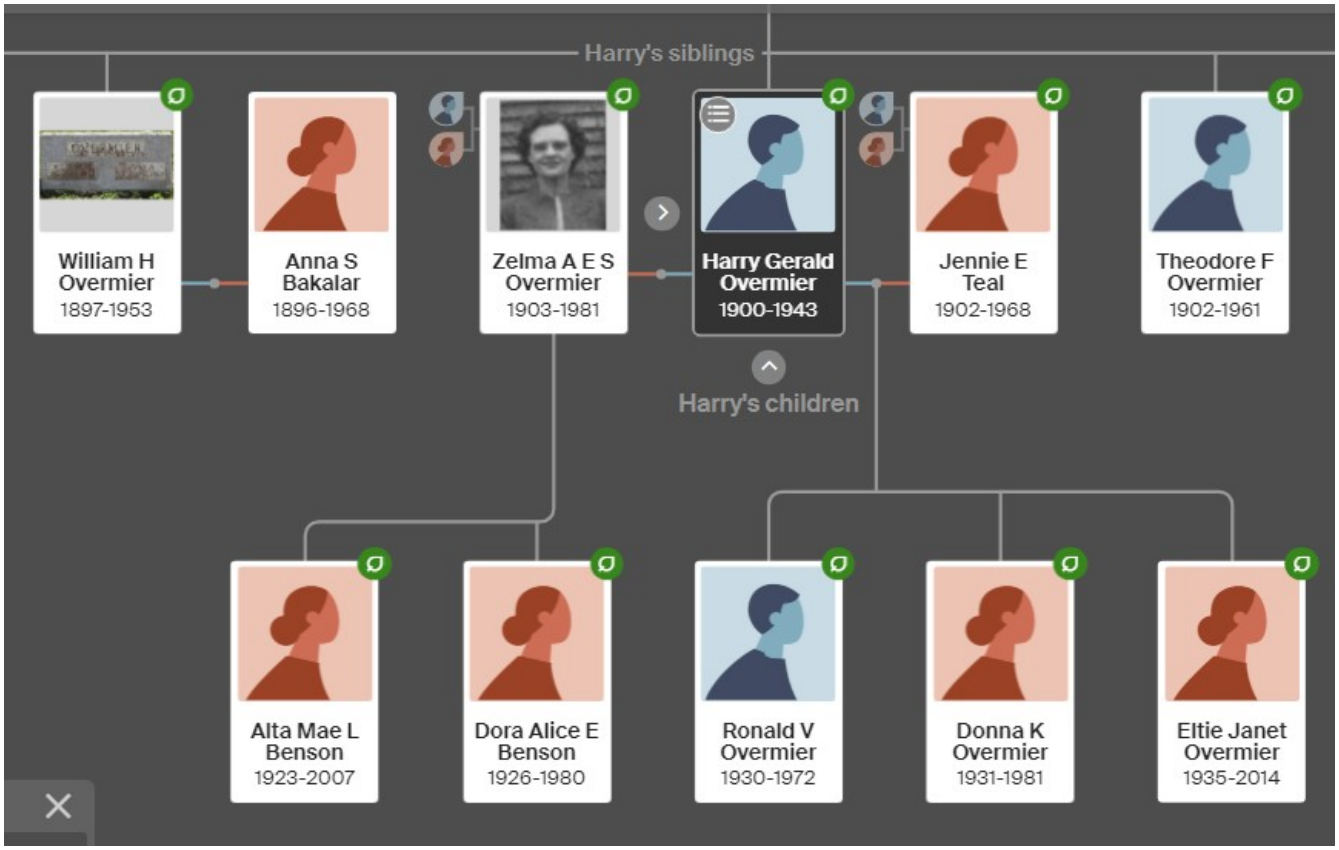
She was born Dec. 28, 1902, at Wing, a daughter of Ernest and Eltie Day Teal. She attended Fairbury schools. She was married to Harry Overmier, who died in 1941.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Charles Hart, Streator; Mrs. John Thrasher, Ottawa; a son, M-Sgt. Ronald Verne Overmier, with the U.S. Air Force; a brother, Walter Teal, Hinsdale; three grandchildren. A brother preceded her in death.

I have a list of all early Fairbury Township High School graduates, and Jennie Teal is not listed in the Class of 1920, or in any class a few years earlier or later. I don't think she graduated from high school.

In 1940, Harry Overmier married Zelma A. Eyre from Cropsey.
She was married 3 times in her lifetime (Stout, Benson, and Harry Overmier).





There is a photo of her on Ancestry.com

An obit for Harry Overmier

I did find an obit for a daughter of Harry Overmier in the April 2, 2014, issue of the Streator Times:

1935-2014

STREATOR — Eltie Janet Hart, 78, of Streator, passed away Saturday evening, March 29, at the Good Samaritan Home in Flanagan.

Hart

Memorial visitation will be from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday at Winterrowd Funeral Home. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Her ashes will be laid to rest at a later date in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Eltie was born Aug. 7, 1935, in Fairbury, to Harry and Jennie (Teal) Overmier. She married Charles R. Hart on Nov. 10, 1957. He survives.

Also surviving are children, Susan (Christopher) Pavlick, of Streator, Michael (Theresa) Hart, of Tonica, Kathleen (William) Hedgspeth, of Port Barrington, Ill., and Ruth Hart, of Ottawa; four grandchildren, Jennifer Rodrick and Jade, Chance and Nicholas Darling; and one great-granddaughter, Sofia Rodrick.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Vernon; sister, Donna Thrasher; and grandson, Justin McMillin.

Eltie attended Pontiac Grade School and graduated from Pontiac High School.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Prayer Group and Totes, all through the church.

She loved doing for others whether it was for family or friends or strangers in other parts of the country through supporting missionaries through her church.

Eltie was very creative and shared her talents of sewing, quilting, needlework, pottery and decorative cake making.

She was slow to anger and eager to forgive.

Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society or First United Methodist Church.

I am not sure of the newspaper source for this obit, but it comes from Findagrave web site:

Find a GRAVE MEMORIALS

Xfinity Mobile utilizes the network with the high

Photo added by Elaine Berkowitz

Add Photos Request Photo

Harry G. Overmier

Services for Harry G. Overmier were held at 10:30 a. m. today at the Conkle funeral home. Burial was in Floral Park.

Mr. Overmier died Saturday morning at Methodist hospital after a short illness. He was 41 and lived at 1623 Alton ave. He was employed at Allison's.

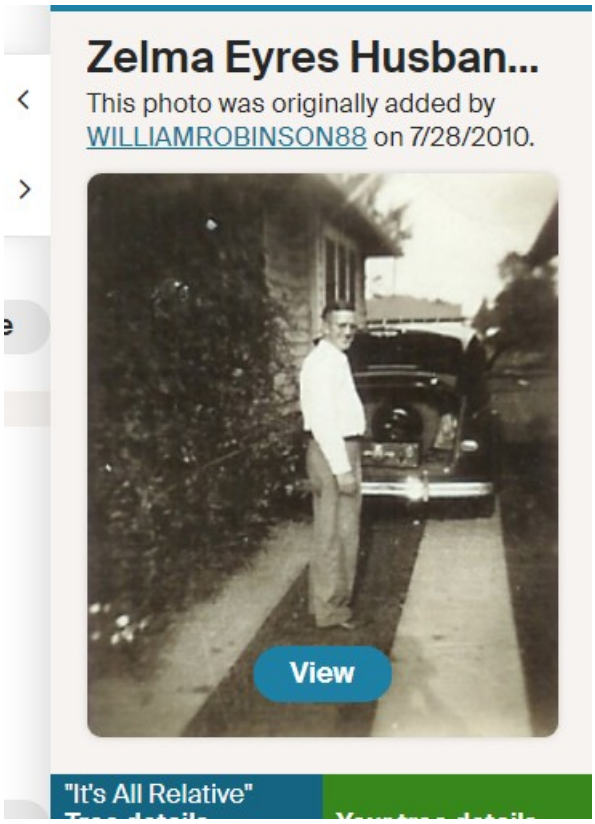
Born in McDowell, Ill., he had lived here three years. He was a member of Capital City lodge, F. & A. M., Speedway post 198, American Legion, and the Christian church of Pontiac, Ill.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Zelma Overmier; two daughters, Donna Overmier and Janet Overmier; a son, Vern Overmier of Pontiac; a sister, Mrs. William Huber of Morton, Ill., and four brothers, William Overmier of Berwyn, Ill.; Fred Overmier of Pontiac, Ill., and Charles and John Overmier of Peoria, Ill.

Findagrave also says there is a link to an ancestor serving in the Revolutionary War:

Possible Photo of Harry Overmier on Ancestry.

Under hints to Zelma Eyre, there is a photo which is described as her husband in Indiana. It could be Harry Overmier maybe?



An obit from The_Indianapolis_News_Mon__Jan_18__1943_:

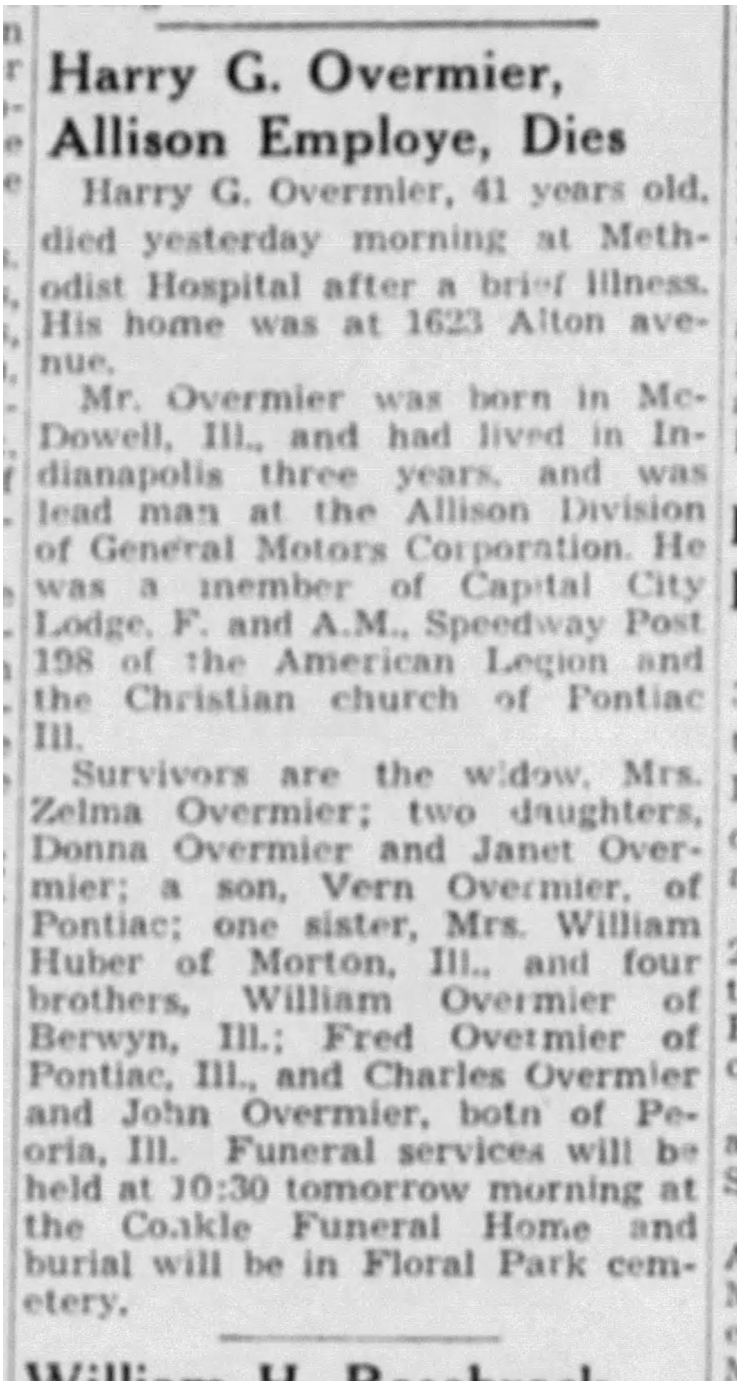
HARRY G. OVERMIER

Harry G. Overmier, age forty-one, who died Saturday in Methodist Hospital after a brief illness, was buried in Floral Park cemetery Monday following services held in the Conkle funeral home. His home was 1623 Alton avenue.

Born at McDowell, Ill., Mr. Overmier had lived in Indianapolis three years. He was employed at the Allison division of General Motors Corporation and was a member of the Christian church at Pontiac, Ill.; Speedway American Legion Post and of Capital City Masonic Lodge.

Saturday—Junior Art Clubs, Mrs. Zelma Overmier; two daughters, Donna Overmier and Janet Overmier; a son, Vern Overmier, Pontiac, Ill.; one sister, Mrs. William Huber, Morton, Ill., and four brothers, William Overmier, Berwyn, Ill.; Fred Overmier, Pontiac, Ill., and Charles Overmier and John Overmier, Peoria, Ill.

Another obit from The_Indianapolis_Star_Sun__Jan_17__1943-:



Harry G. Overmier, Allison Employe, Dies

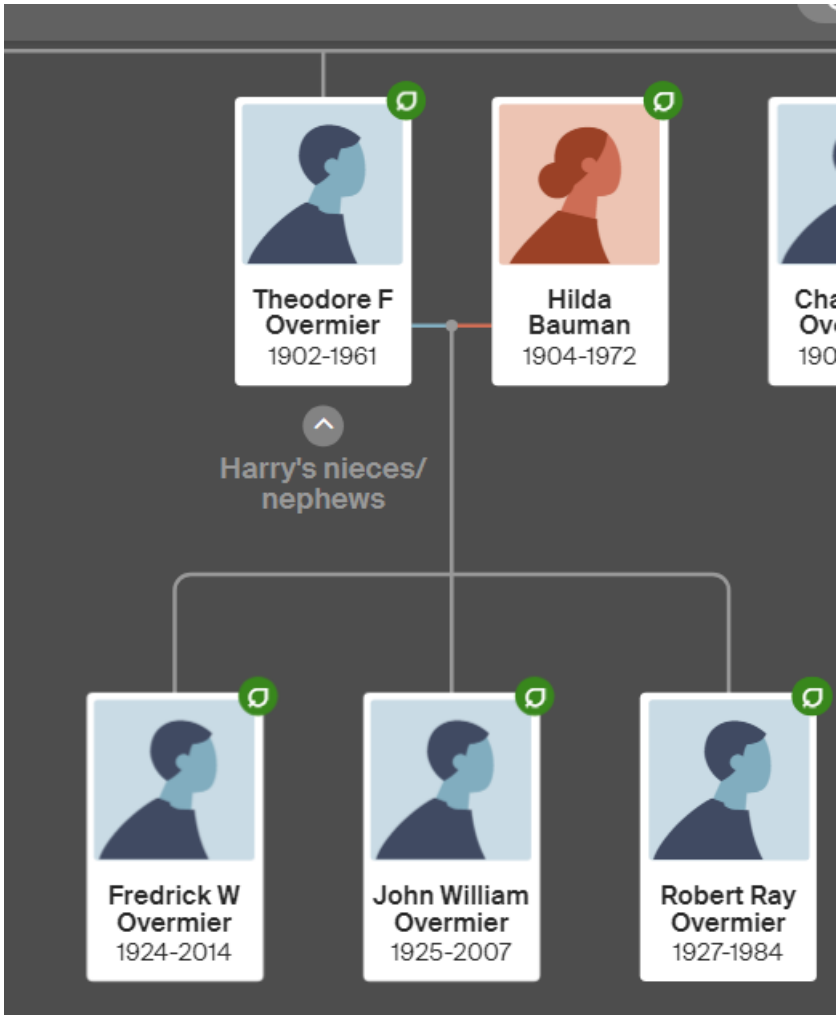
Harry G. Overmier, 41 years old, died yesterday morning at Methodist Hospital after a brief illness. His home was at 1623 Alton avenue.

Mr. Overmier was born in McDowell, Ill., and had lived in Indianapolis three years, and was lead man at the Allison Division of General Motors Corporation. He was a member of Capital City Lodge, F. and A.M., Speedway Post 198 of the American Legion and the Christian church of Pontiac Ill.

Survivors are the widow, Mrs. Zelma Overmier; two daughters, Donna Overmier and Janet Overmier; a son, Vern Overmier, of Pontiac; one sister, Mrs. William Huber of Morton, Ill., and four brothers, William Overmier of Berwyn, Ill.; Fred Overmier of Pontiac, Ill., and Charles Overmier and John Overmier, botn of Peoria, Ill. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 tomorrow morning at the Conkle Funeral Home and burial will be in Floral Park cemetery.

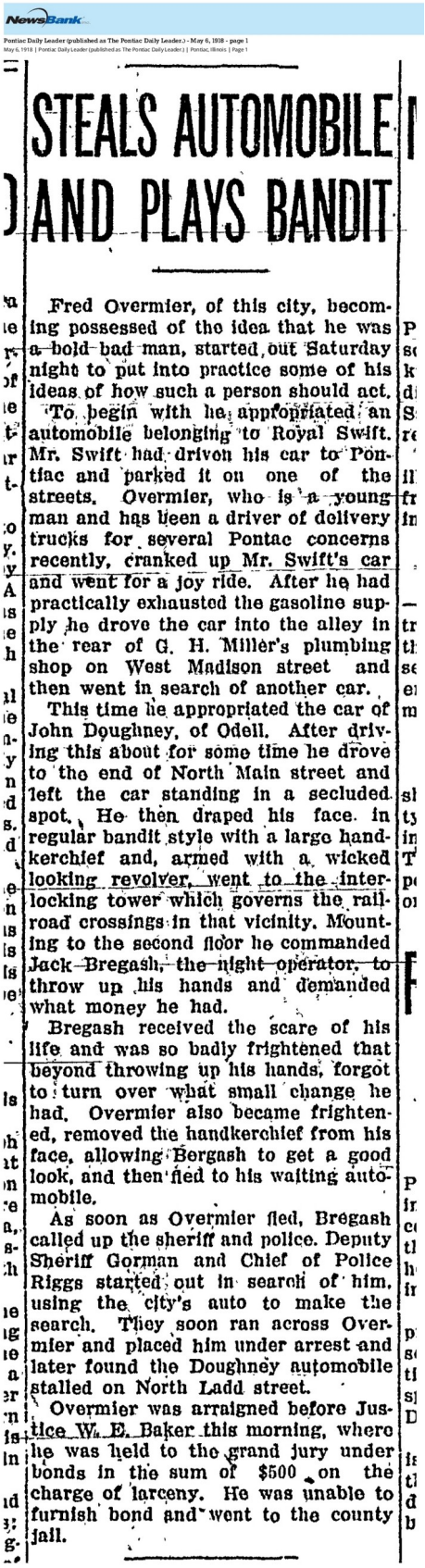
That finishes the Harry Overmier Branch of the Family Tree

Theodore Frederick "Fred" Overmier (1902-1961)



The Bauman’s are a well-known farming family that still has members in the Chenoa area.

Appears Fred had a wild streak when he was 16 years old per The_Pontiac Daily_Leader.___May_6_1918:



NewsBank
Pontiac Daily Leader (published as The Pontiac Daily Leader.) - May 6, 1918 - page 1
May 6, 1918 | Pontiac Daily Leader (published as The Pontiac Daily Leader.) | Pontiac, Illinois | Page 1

STEALS AUTOMOBILE AND PLAYS BANDIT

Fred Overmier, of this city, becoming possessed of the idea that he was a bold bad man, started out Saturday night to put into practice some of his ideas of how such a person should act.

To begin with he appropriated an automobile belonging to Royal Swift. Mr. Swift had driven his car to Pontiac and parked it on one of the streets. Overmier, who is a young man and has been a driver of delivery trucks for several Pontac concerns recently, cranked up Mr. Swift's car and went for a joy ride. After he had practically exhausted the gasoline supply he drove the car into the alley in the rear of G. H. Miller's plumbing shop on West Madison street and then went in search of another car.

This time he appropriated the car of John Doughney, of Odell. After driving this about for some time he drove to the end of North Main street and left the car standing in a secluded spot. He then draped his face in regular bandit style with a large handkerchief and, armed with a wicked looking revolver, went to the interlocking tower which governs the railroad crossings in that vicinity. Mounting to the second floor he commanded Jack Bregash, the night operator, to throw up his hands and demanded what money he had.

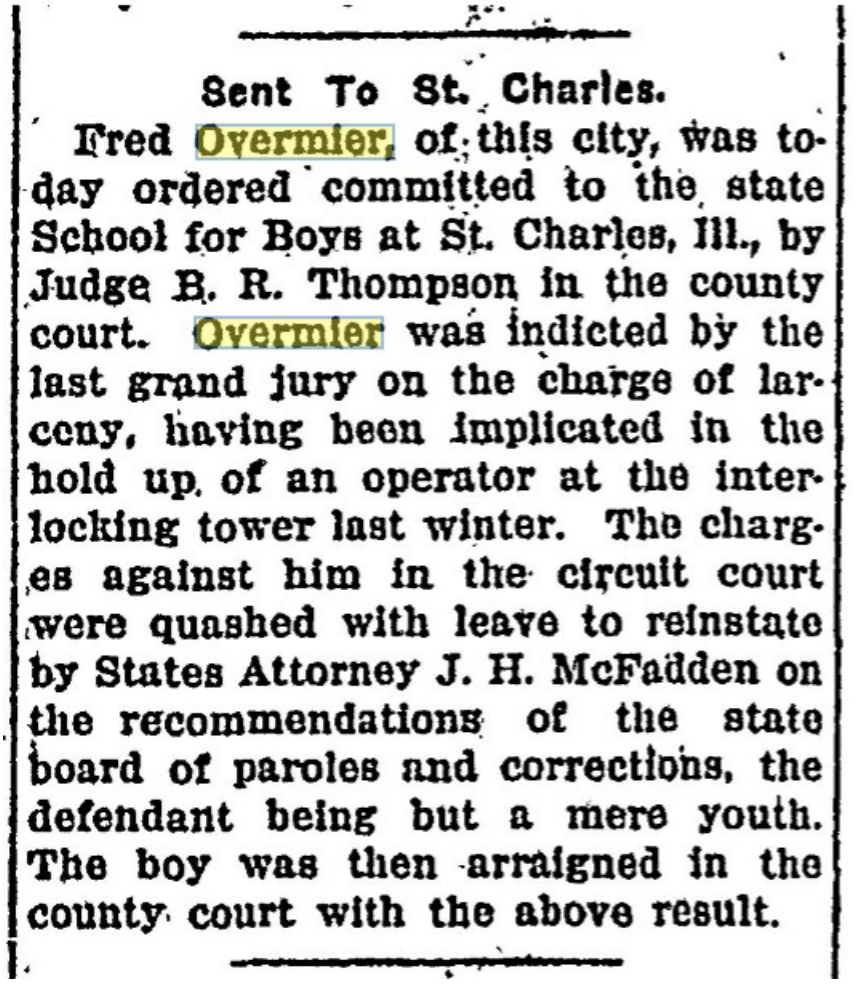
Bregash received the scare of his life and was so badly frightened that beyond throwing up his hands, forgot to turn over what small change he had. Overmier also became frightened, removed the handkerchief from his face, allowing Bergash to get a good look, and then fled to his waiting automobile.

As soon as Overmier fled, Bregash called up the sheriff and police. Deputy Sheriff Gorman and Chief of Police Riggs started out in search of him, using the city's auto to make the search. They soon ran across Overmier and placed him under arrest and later found the Doughney automobile stalled on North Ladd street.

Overmier was arraigned before Justice W. E. Baker this morning, where he was held to the grand jury under bonds in the sum of $500 on the charge of larceny. He was unable to furnish bond and went to the county jail.

And the result for this wild streak ??

Pontiac Daily Leader June 25, 1918
Article made available by *Our Generous Donors*



Sent To St. Charles.

Fred Overmier, of this city, was today ordered committed to the state School for Boys at St. Charles, Ill., by Judge B. R. Thompson in the county court. Overmier was indicted by the last grand jury on the charge of larceny, having been implicated in the hold up of an operator at the interlocking tower last winter. The charges against him in the circuit court were quashed with leave to reinstate by States Attorney J. H. McFadden on the recommendations of the state board of paroles and corrections, the defendant being but a mere youth. The boy was then arraigned in the county court with the above result.

Fred must have had quite a temper !!

Pontiac Daily Leader March 17, 1924
Article made available by *Our Generous Donors*

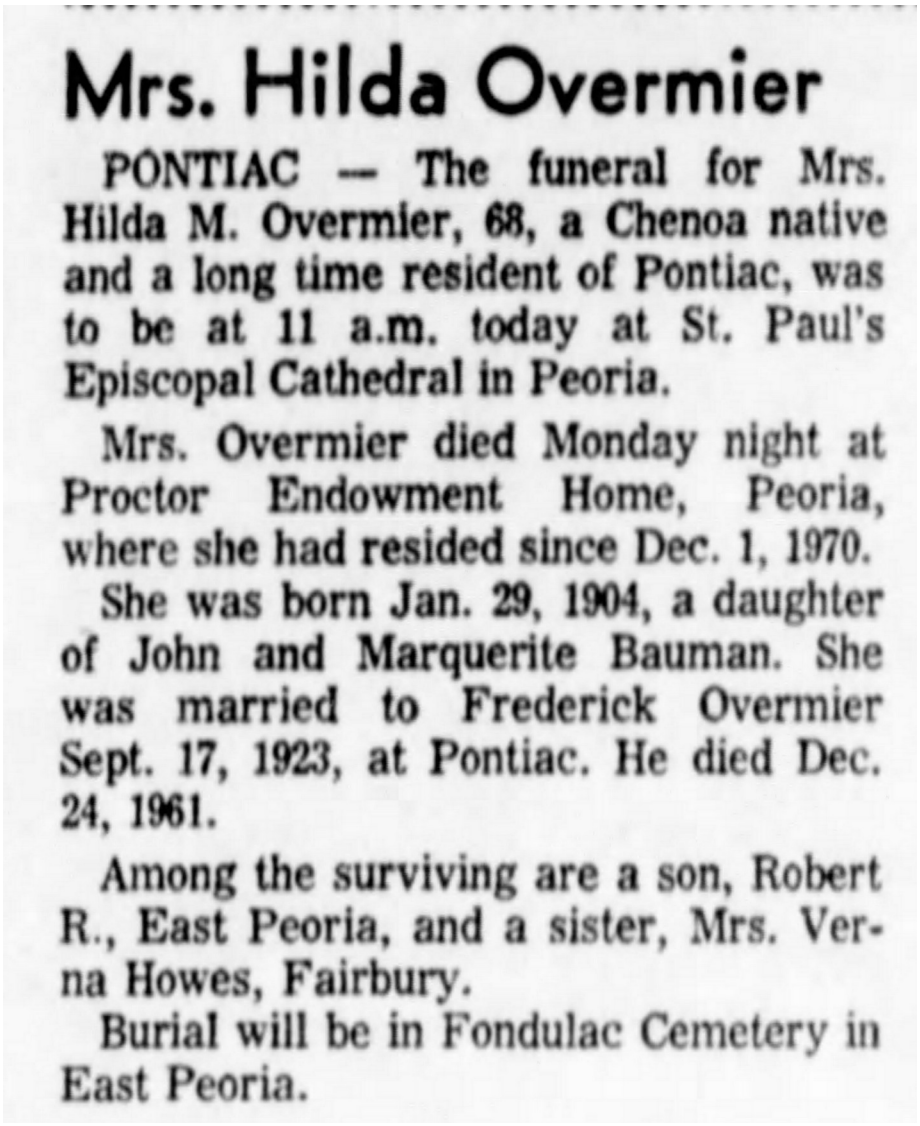
Fred Overmier and Lawrence Adrian engaged in a rather spirited altercation about 7:30 o'clock last night and as a result Adrian had Overmier arrested on a city warrant charging assault and battery. Overmier was arrested by Policemen Jones and Bohm a short while later and arraigned before Justice John Deyo. A continuance of the case was taken until this evening at 7:30 o'clock, Overmier being released under a $50 bond.

1923
21

Marriage
17 Sep 1923 • Livingston County, Illinois, USA

Hilda Bauman
(1904–1972)

Obit for wife of Fred Overmier from July 7, 1972, Pantagraph:



Mrs. Hilda Overmier

PONTIAC — The funeral for Mrs. Hilda M. Overmier, 68, a Chenoa native and a long time resident of Pontiac, was to be at 11 a.m. today at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Peoria.

Mrs. Overmier died Monday night at Proctor Endowment Home, Peoria, where she had resided since Dec. 1, 1970.

She was born Jan. 29, 1904, a daughter of John and Marquerite Bauman. She was married to Frederick Overmier Sept. 17, 1923, at Pontiac. He died Dec. 24, 1961.

Among the surviving are a son, Robert R., East Peoria, and a sister, Mrs. Verna Howes, Fairbury.

Burial will be in Fondulac Cemetery in East Peoria.

Obit for Fred Overmier:

Can not find in Leader.
Can not find in Pantagraph.
Can not find in Newspapers.com

FindaGrave

U.S., Find a Grave® Index, 1600s-Current

View record

Name	**Theodore Frederick Overmier**
Gender	Male
Birth Date	17 Sep 1902
Birth Place	Pontiac, Livingston County, Illinois, United States of America
Death Date	24 Dec 1961
Death Place	Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, United States of America
Cemetery	Fon du Lac Township Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place	East Peoria, Tazewell County, Illinois, United States of America
Has Bio?	Y
Father	George Washington Overmier
Mother	Ida Grace Overmier
Spouse	Hilda Marie Overmier
Children	Robert Ray Overmier; Frederick Wayne Overmier

Theodore Frederick Overmier

in the U.S., Find a Grave® Index, 1600s-Current

Want to get involved? Click here.

Report a problem

Detail Source

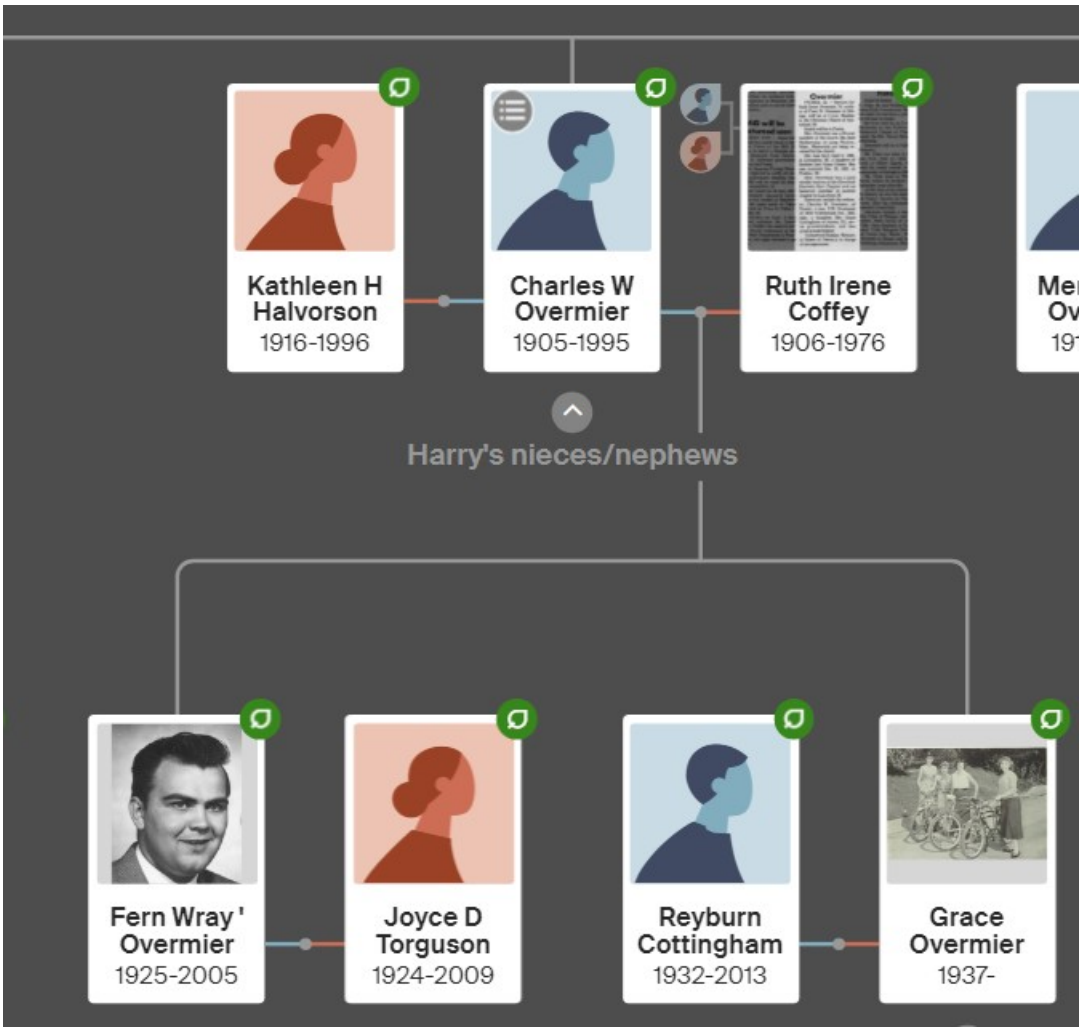
Name	Theodore Frederick Overmier
Gender	Male
Birth Date	17 Sep 1902
Birth Place	Pontiac, Livingston County, Illinois, United States of America
Death Date	24 Dec 1961
Death Place	Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, United States of America
Cemetery	Fon du Lac Township Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place	East Peoria, Tazewell County, Illinois, United States of America
Has Bio?	Y

Very weird in that I can not find an obituary for him?

End of Fred Overmier Part of Family Tree

Charles Overmier

From Ancestry.com, looks like his 1st wife died, so he married again.



Pontiac Daily Leader December 28, 1923
Article made available by *Our Generous Donors*

Overmier-Coffey.

Christmas morning at ten o'clock at the rectory of the Christian church Rev. Chester Crabtree united in marriage Miss Ruth Coffey and Charles Overmier, both of this city. The young people were attended by Fern Ogden as groomsman and Miss Leora Sholtice as bridesmaid. Immediately after the ceremony the bridal couple left for Indianapolis, Ind., where they are spending their honeymoon. Upon their return they will make this city their home. The groom is a son of Mrs. Grace Overmier, of this city. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Coffey, also of this city.

Obit for 1st Wife from The Billings Gazette - 2 Oct 1976 - Page 14:

Overmier

PEORIA, Ill. — Services for Ruth Irene Overmier, 70, mother of Fern W. Overmier of Billings, will be at 2 p.m. Monday in the Christian Church of Sunnyland, Ill.

Burial will be in Peoria.

Mrs. Overmier was a 50-year member of the church. She died Wednesday in Long Prairie, Minn. Memorials are being received by the church.

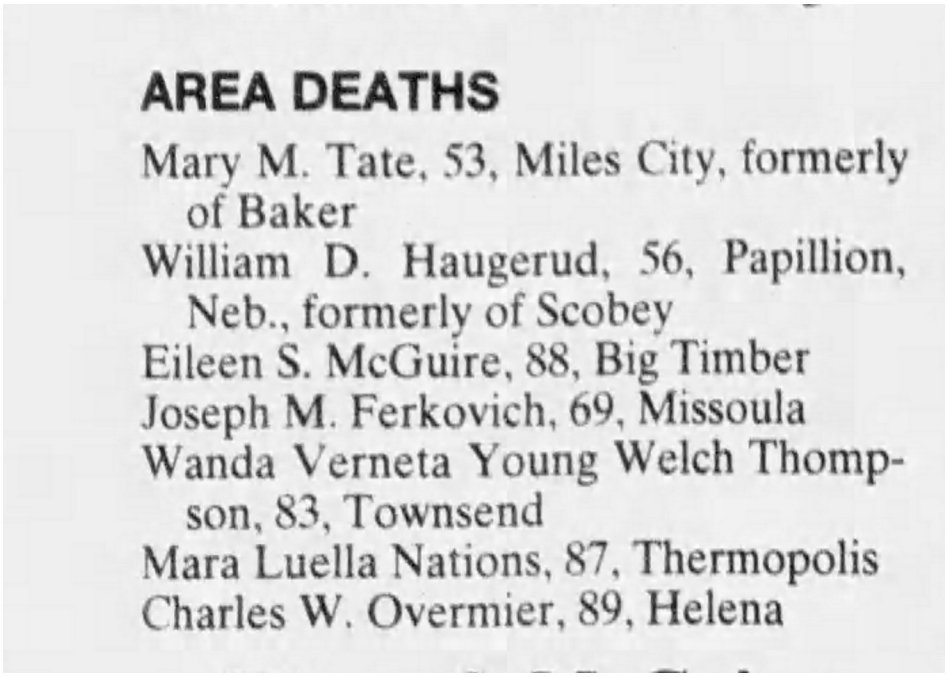
She was born April 8, 1906, in Lexington, Ill., a daughter of Reuben and Nancy Gibson. She was married Dec. 25, 1923, in Pontiac, Ill.

Mrs. Overmier was a past worthy matron of the Cloverleaf Eastern Star Chapter and an honorary member of another chapter in Lanceford, Ill.

Survivors include the widower, Charles W. Overmier, of Peoria; a son, F.W. Overmeier of 1416 Yellowstone Ave., Billings; a daughter, Mrs. Grace Cottingham of Aurora, Ill.; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Cumerford-Endsley Memorial Home of Peoria is in charge of arrangements.

Death notice for Charles Overmier in The_Billings_Gazette_Sun__Nov_12__1995:



AREA DEATHS

Mary M. Tate, 53, Miles City, formerly of Baker
William D. Haugerud, 56, Papillion, Neb., formerly of Scobey
Eileen S. McGuire, 88, Big Timber
Joseph M. Ferkovich, 69, Missoula
Wanda Verneta Young Welch Thompson, 83, Townsend
Mara Luella Nations, 87, Thermopolis
Charles W. Overmier, 89, Helena

No obit from Pantagraph or from Newspapers.com

This finishes Charles Overmier part of family tree.

Meredith Ray Overmier

This is a sad one, he was only about 24 years old when he died.

> **Meredith Ray Overmier**
> **B:** 16 Jul 1912 Pontiac, Livingston, Illinois, USA
>
> **D:** 19 Nov 1936 Pontiac, Livingston, Illinois, USA

His photo on the Pontiac basketball team from The_Pantagraph_Wed__Mar_19__1930:

Indians Face U. High Quint in First Round

PONTIAC TOWNSHIP H. S. BASKETBALL SQUAD.

Front row, left to right—H. Mies, R. Overmier, H. Corbin, J. Cushing, J. Sutton.

Back row, left to right—J. Armstrong, manager; V. Chamberlain, G. Middleton, R. Wagner, Wayne Eckley, coach; G. Shurr, S. Stewart, M. Durham, assistant manager.

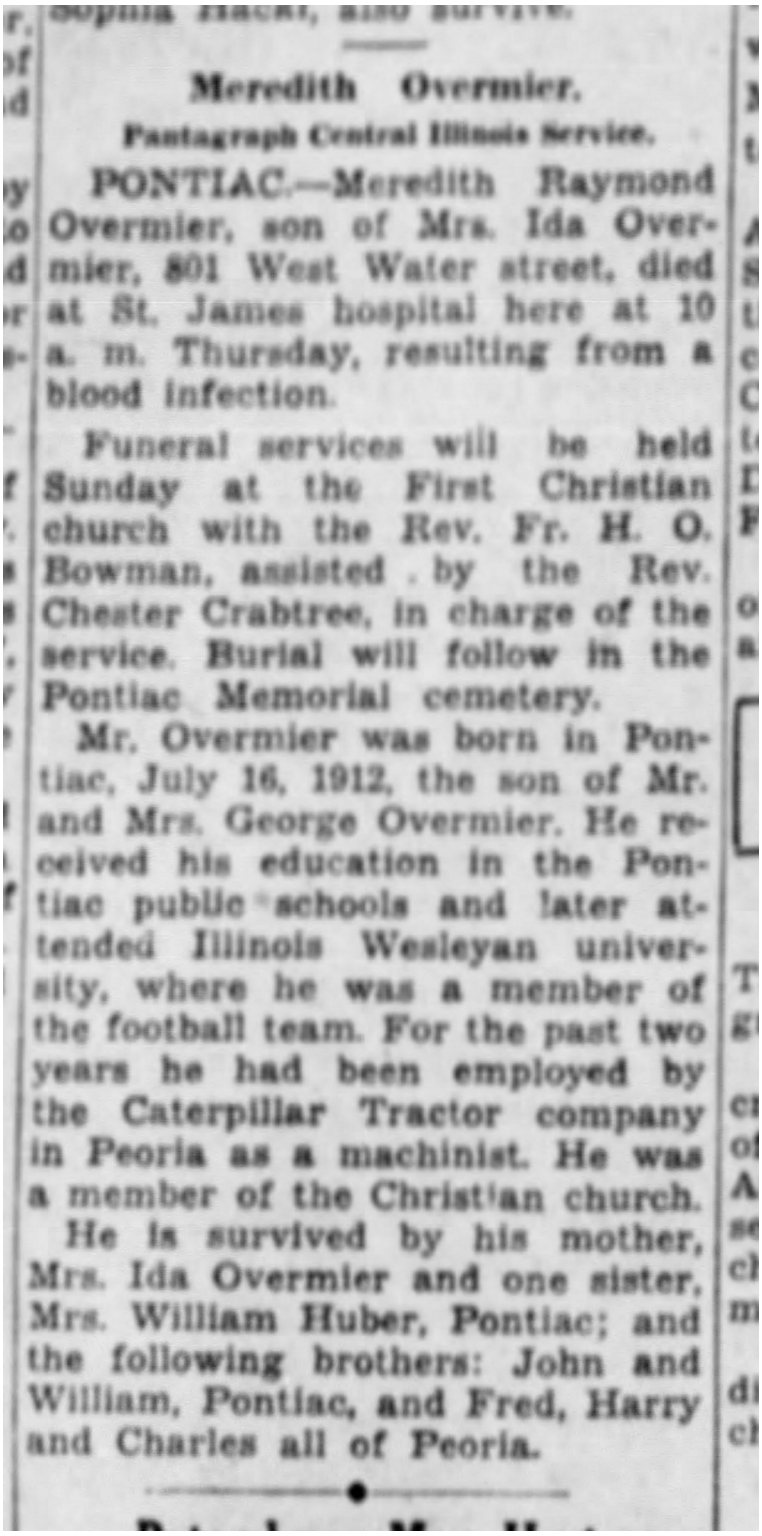
Although the Indians do not boast of any startling record for the past season they will come to the Wesleyan tournament this weekend determined to atone for some of the reverses of the year. The Pontiac quintet has been an erratic club this year, but when playing at its best has been able to stop the best teams in the state. A startling victory over Streator was the highlight of the season for the Indians.

Wayne Eckley, former Ellsworth mentor, is the coach of the Pontiac five, having succeeded Ray Polster at mid-year when the latter took over a position in St. Louis. In the Dwight district, Pontiac was eliminated by Morris in the finals, but was the lucky eighth team chosen for the Peoria sectional.

The Indians are the first round foe of Tom Douglass' U. High contingent at 4:30 p. m. Thursday and a great battle is expected.

His high school graduation photo from may 25, 1930 Pantagraph.

Obit in The_Pantagraph_Fri__Nov_20__1936:



Sophia Hacker, also survive.

Meredith Overmier.

Pantagraph Central Illinois Service.

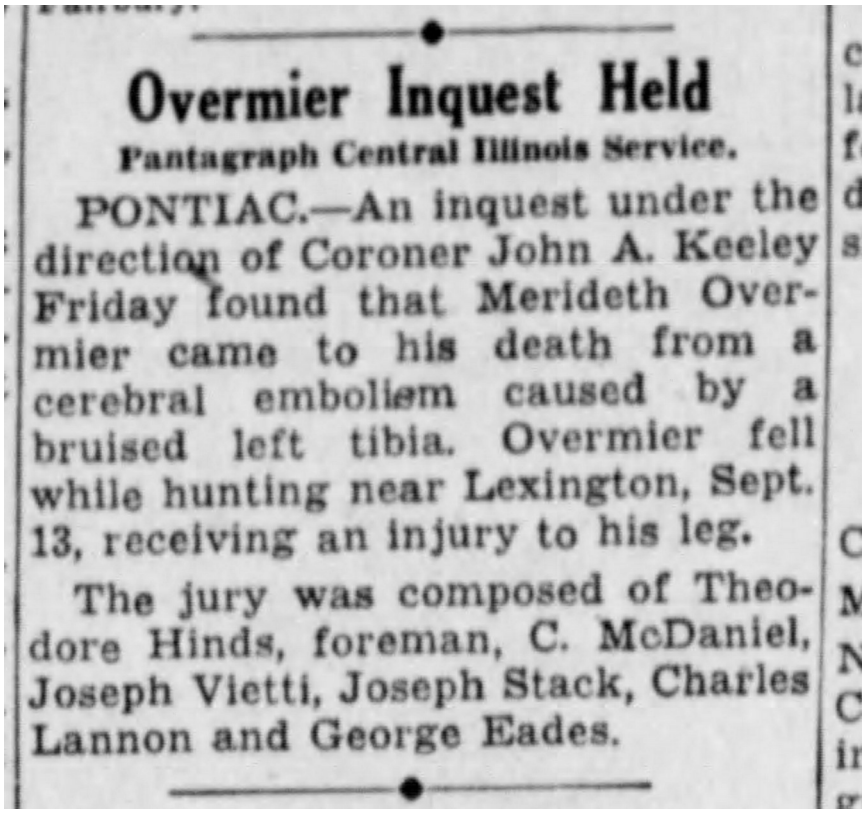
PONTIAC.—Meredith Raymond Overmier, son of Mrs. Ida Overmier, 801 West Water street, died at St. James hospital here at 10 a. m. Thursday, resulting from a blood infection.

Funeral services will be held Sunday at the First Christian church with the Rev. Fr. H. O. Bowman, assisted by the Rev. Chester Crabtree, in charge of the service. Burial will follow in the Pontiac Memorial cemetery.

Mr. Overmier was born in Pontiac, July 16, 1912, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Overmier. He received his education in the Pontiac public schools and later attended Illinois Wesleyan university, where he was a member of the football team. For the past two years he had been employed by the Caterpillar Tractor company in Peoria as a machinist. He was a member of the Christian church.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Ida Overmier and one sister, Mrs. William Huber, Pontiac; and the following brothers: John and William, Pontiac, and Fred, Harry and Charles all of Peoria.

Coroner's Inquest results fromThe_Pantagraph_Sat__Nov_21__1936:



Overmier Inquest Held

Pantagraph Central Illinois Service.

PONTIAC.—An inquest under the direction of Coroner John A. Keeley Friday found that Merideth Overmier came to his death from a cerebral embolism caused by a bruised left tibia. Overmier fell while hunting near Lexington, Sept. 13, receiving an injury to his leg.

The jury was composed of Theodore Hinds, foreman, C. McDaniel, Joseph Vietti, Joseph Stack, Charles Lannon and George Eades.

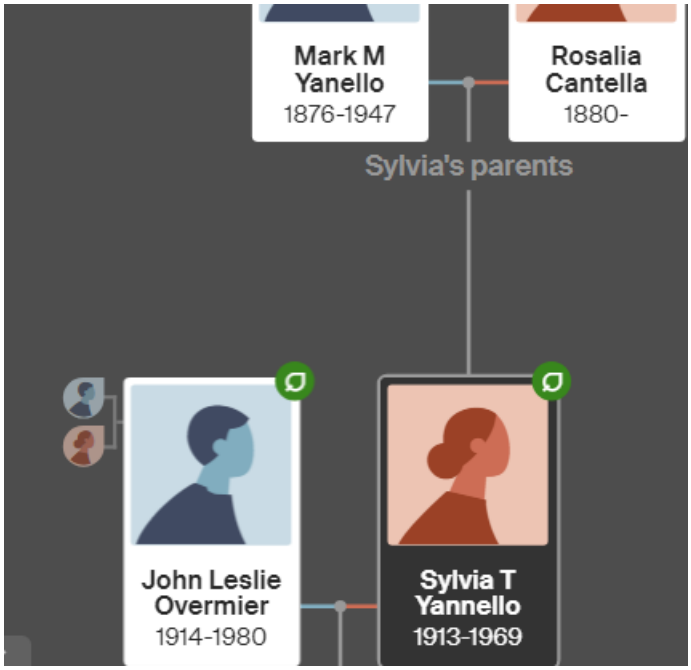
Sounds like he did finish at Pontiac High School. He would have been about the class of 1912 birth + 18 at graduation = 1930.

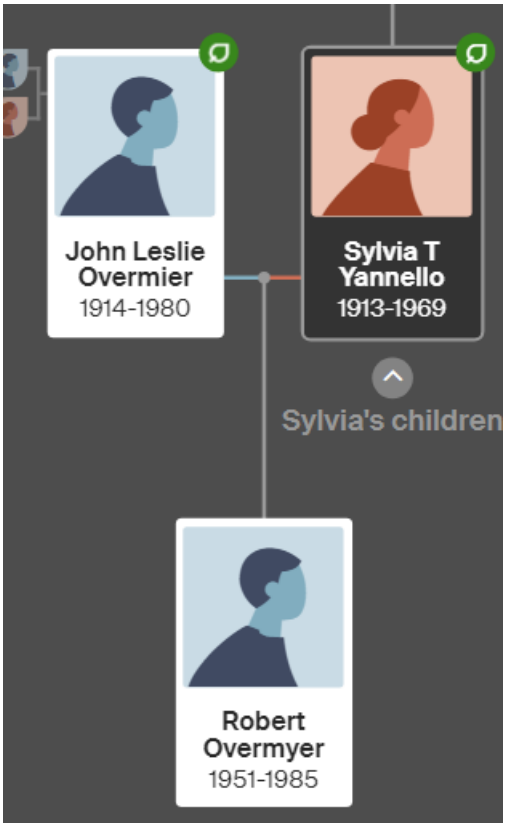
We have a 1930 Pontiac yearbook with his photo in our Historical Society archives.

This finished the Ray Overmier branch of the family tree.

John Leslie Overmier

He married a gal who's parents were both born in Italy and emigrated to the Streator area.





Wedding notice from The_Pantagraph_Wed__Oct_9__1940:

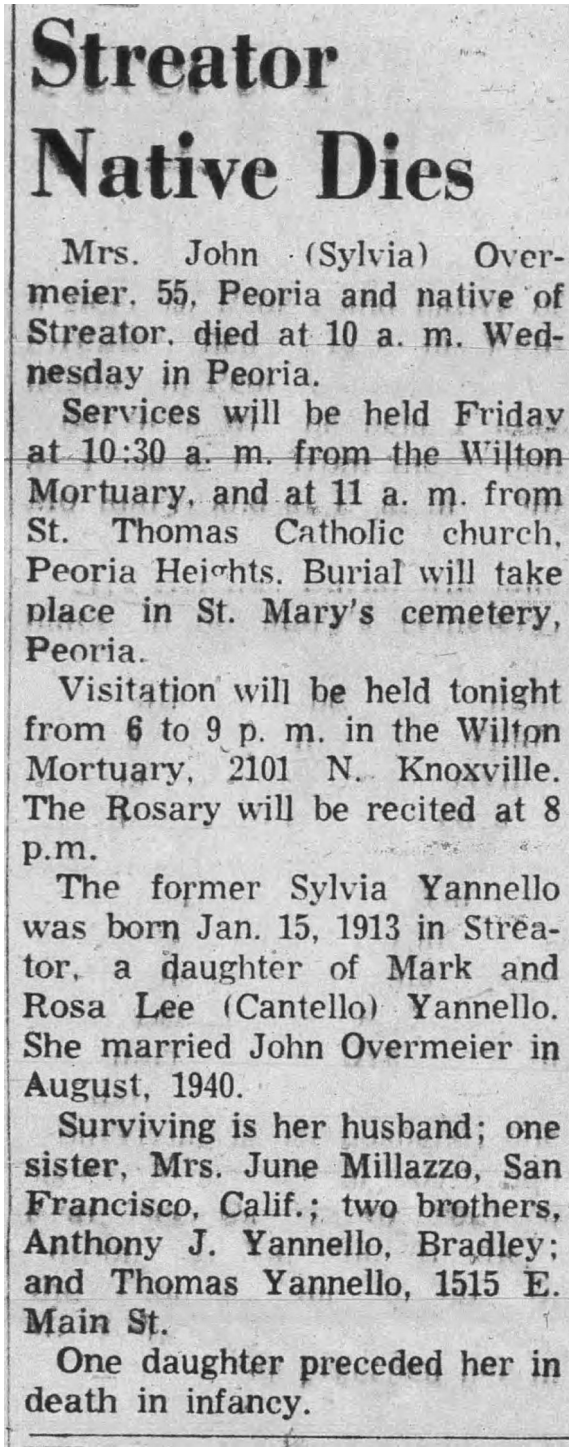
their home.

Miss Yannello Married in Iowa

PONTIAC.— (PNS) —The marriage of Miss Sylvia Yannello, Streator, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Yannello, to John Overmier, Pontiac, son of Mrs. Grace Overmier, which occurred in Burlington, Ia., Sept. 28, was announced here Monday.

They only had 1 child, and he apparently never married.

Obit for wife of John Overmier from The_Streator Times_Thu__Jan_9__1969:



Streator Native Dies

Mrs. John (Sylvia) Overmeier, 55, Peoria and native of Streator, died at 10 a. m. Wednesday in Peoria.

Services will be held Friday at 10:30 a. m. from the Wilton Mortuary, and at 11 a. m. from St. Thomas Catholic church, Peoria Heights. Burial will take place in St. Mary's cemetery, Peoria.

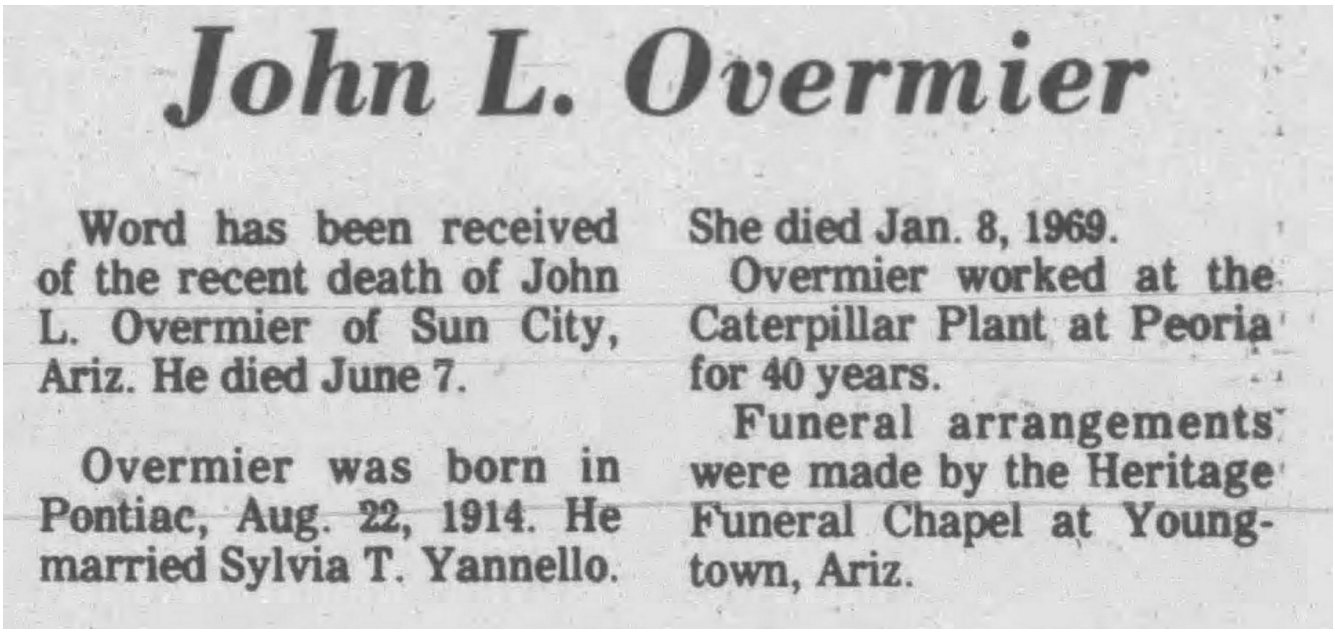
Visitation will be held tonight from 6 to 9 p. m. in the Wilton Mortuary, 2101 N. Knoxville. The Rosary will be recited at 8 p.m.

The former Sylvia Yannello was born Jan. 15, 1913 in Streator, a daughter of Mark and Rosa Lee (Cantello) Yannello. She married John Overmeier in August, 1940.

Surviving is her husband; one sister, Mrs. June Millazzo, San Francisco, Calif.; two brothers, Anthony J. Yannello, Bradley; and Thomas Yannello, 1515 E. Main St.

One daughter preceded her in death in infancy.

Obit for him from The_Streator Times_Mon__Jun_23__1980:



John L. Overmier

Word has been received of the recent death of John L. Overmier of Sun City, Ariz. He died June 7.

Overmier was born in Pontiac, Aug. 22, 1914. He married Sylvia T. Yannello. She died Jan. 8, 1969.

Overmier worked at the Caterpillar Plant at Peoria for 40 years.

Funeral arrangements were made by the Heritage Funeral Chapel at Youngtown, Ariz.

Closing Thoughts on This Genealogy Project for the Overmier Family

Caterpillar Tractor Co.

I worked for 37 years as an Engineer at Caterpillar Inc., mostly at the Pontiac, IL, Plant. From about 1930 until about 1950, all of Cat's products were made at their massive East Peoria facility. Sometime in the 1950s, Caterpillar needed more factory capacity, so they opened plants in Joliet, Aurora, and Decatur.

Turns out that many members of the Overmier family worked some years, or some cases whole careers at the large E. Peoria facility.

Family Photos

In my experience of researching 100s of family trees, family photos are one of the most difficult things to find. If there are no photos available from family members, about the best source is Ancestry.com. But, there are relatively few photos available on Ancestry.com. Many of them are also marked private on Ancestry and you can not access them unless you get permission from the family tree owner. Sometimes they will share with you.

Different Spellings of Overmier

Surnames that can easily be mispelled make it difficult to do historical research. Overmier can be spelled Overmeyer or Overmyer.

Fairbury Blade Articles

Anyone can search this database using the Dominy Memorial Library website. There are 63 articles that show up by searching for Overmier. I don't have time available to check these 63 articles.

Pantagraph Articles

Unfortunately, you have to pay an annual fee of about $60 to Newspapers.com to access the Pantagraph. There are 174 articles with the word Overmier in the article. Some of these are in the Streator Free Press also.

I quickly skimmed them and pulled out the most important ones, or ones with photos. They are shown above.

Daily Leader Articles

The Pontiac Library just finished digitizing these articles, but they only allow library members to do remote searches. You can go to the library and use a designated computer to search for articles for free. I am not a library card holder, but I was able to search these archives. There are 321 articles starting in 1903 with the word Overmier in them.

I started with the oldest articles, extracted important or interesting ones and inserted them above.

End of Report

Dale C. Maley
Vice-President – Fairbury Echoes Museum
President – Livingston County Historical Society